

this bill. I also want to thank all of my Hoosier colleagues from both sides of the aisle who signed on and support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) in supporting H.R. 5509, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House.

Dr. Bowen was born near Rochester, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University and received his M.D. degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1943 to 1946, and was with the first wave of Allied troops in the invasion of Okinawa in 1945, and was honorably discharged as a captain in 1946.

When he returned home, he began his private practice, acquiring a respected place in Bremen, Indiana, as the country doctor.

After serving in the Indiana Legislature for 14 years, Dr. Bowen was elected the 44th Governor of Indiana and ultimately served as the Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Ronald Reagan.

I am very pleased to support this legislation and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my dear friend and colleague from California (Mr. TAKANO) for those remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI). She is my dear friend from northern Indiana who has also served on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BROOKS from Indiana. I am thrilled to stand here tonight and be a part of naming this facility in Indianapolis the Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House.

Dr. Bowen spent most of his life in my district, Indiana's Second District. He was the consummate Hoosier, known for his personal integrity and leadership in service to this Nation and the State of Indiana.

His nickname was Doc, as he was affectionately known, and I would be one person knocking on his door every so often just to check in and see how he was doing. He had a wall of fame in his house like none other. I would love to just sit and listen to his words of wisdom over the years. He was born in Rochester, Indiana, in Fulton County. He graduated from Francesville High School. To this day, today, all of those areas in those counties are proud that he actually resided in those areas.

He received his medical degree from IU in 1942, completed his residency at Memorial Hospital of South Bend, joined the U.S. Medical Army Corps, was part of the first wave of troops to storm the beaches of Okinawa during World War II. After leaving the service,

he started a family practice in Bremen, Indiana. In 1952, Doc began his career in public service, serving as Marshall County coroner in 1956, when he was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. He was elected Governor of Indiana in 1972 and reelected in 1976.

In 1985, Ronald Reagan appointed him as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Service, the first medical doctor to serve in that role.

His commitment to serving Hoosiers made him one of the most adored public servants in the State of Indiana. His dedication is exemplified by the fact that after all these accomplishments and awards, he said his proudest achievement was delivering those 3,000 babies as a family physician in Marshall County.

I can't think of a more deserving person to name this facility after.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5509.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before we conclude, I would like to take a moment to personally thank Chairman MILLER for all that he has done throughout his tenure in the House of Representatives and in shepherding this bill. I also would like to thank his staff who have helped us bring this bill to the floor.

The people of Florida's First Congressional District couldn't have asked for a more dedicated public servant. The work that Chairman MILLER has done to advance the rights and care of veterans is truly remarkable.

Whether it was in the trenches of war for Doc Bowen or in political office or at his doctor's office, Doc Bowen had a clear passion for serving others. However, he always reserved a special place in his heart for his fellow veterans, like Chairman MILLER. That is why it is only appropriate that the house—the home—that he helped build for veterans and their families carry his name and serve as a permanent reminder of the character and fortitude of this legendary man.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge passage today.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5509.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOLD FARC ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, Colombians in my Congressional District will go to the polls to vote on the Colombia-FARC deal, deciding whether to hold the narco-terrorist organization known as the FARC accountable for its innumerable crimes committed over more than 50 years.

Yet, in a deal brokered by the duplicitous Castro regime, the FARC members may soon get off scot-free—no jail time and no compensation to the family members of their victims. FARC members will even be allowed to run for office. Good grief.

This is a bad deal, Mr. Speaker, and it should not be financed by American taxpayers. The only things the FARC and its criminal backers in Havana are interested in are more opportunities to continue running drugs, lining their pockets, and destabilizing Latin America.

Colombians in my district can vote on the deal in either Coral Gables, Hialeah, or Kendall, as well as many other places surrounding Miami. For more information on voting locations, they can contact the Colombian consulate in Miami.

SHOOTING AT CASCADE MALL IN BURLINGTON, WASHINGTON

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart. On Friday night, there was a tragic shooting at the Cascade Mall in Burlington, where five people were killed.

The victims included a 16-year-old cancer survivor from Mount Vernon High School, a dedicated public servant from Arlington and her 95-year-old mother, a Boeing employee from Lake Stevens, and a Macy's cosmetic counter worker.

As our community comes together during this difficult time, our region grieves for the victims, their families, and all those affected by this tragedy.

We will always remember Sarai Lara, Belinda Galde, Beatrice Dotson, Chuck Eagan, and Shayla Martin.

I want to thank our local law enforcement for their long hours searching for the shooter who was apprehended less than 24 hours after the incident.

While there is no one law that will prevent every single instance of senseless violence, we must do more to end the tragic cycle of gun violence affecting our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S BACKPACK PROGRAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the efforts of an Erie County-based food bank to combat childhood hunger across northwestern Pennsylvania, especially in several counties of Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

In 2011, the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania launched its backpack program, which enlists the help of volunteers to fill backpacks with enough meals and snacks to help feed children over the weekends of each school year.

Over this past weekend, around 70 volunteers, including residents, teachers, and businessowners from Warren County gathered to supply backpacks to around 350 students in the Warren County School District. The backpacks are expected to last those second and third grade students through the end of the year.

In Erie County, around 1,100 students benefit from the program in the Erie County School District with meals being distributed to children throughout its 15 elementary schools.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that a program such as this is necessary, but I am proud that there are folks in the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District and the surrounding area who are willing to help step up to the plate for kids in need.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the 226 million Americans who are eligible to vote and to recognize September 27 as National Voter Registration Day.

However, this year is different. With the recent attacks on our democracy, unscrupulous actors seek to gain access to confidential and sensitive information and distort the outcome of elections.

In Arizona, the secretary of state just took offline its voter registration database because of credible threats to its system. In Illinois, 15 million records were recently exposed and nearly 200,000 accessed by hackers. The Russian Government hacked the Democratic Party's emails and files in an attempt to distort our elections.

Our elections should be free of foreign influence. As the representative for Silicon Valley, I value technology in our democracy. That is why I introduced legislation to declare our election technology as critical infrastructure, so we can give local and State officials the Federal resources they need to protect our votes and the purity of our democracy.

On this National Voter Registration Day, too much is on the line for us not to act.

RECOGNIZING KU CHANCELLOR BERNADETTE GRAY-LITTLE

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, as a proud Jayhawk, I rise today to recognize a great leader for the State of Kansas who has made a positive impact on the lives of many fellow Kansans—KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

Last week, Chancellor Gray-Little announced her retirement in 2017, and I wanted to recognize some of the major accomplishments during her tenure at KU.

From day one, she set aggressive goals through her Bold Aspirations initiative to advance the university into the 21st century as a leader in education and research. It was a great success, leading to KU being designated as a National Cancer Institute and working towards a Comprehensive Cancer Center designation. The KU Alzheimer's Disease Center also received national designation from the National Institute on Aging.

As someone who utilized both student loans and Pell grants, I was greatly appreciative of her vocal support for these programs to help every student achieve their dreams regardless of income level.

Today, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Chancellor Gray-Little for her leadership and service to our beloved Jayhawk community and wish her and her husband, Shade, well in their next endeavors.

Rock Chalk, Jayhawks.

VETERAN SUICIDE CRISIS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am holding here in my hand a wristband that was given to me over this weekend. It says: "22 every day." Unfortunately, shamefully, this is in reference to the number of veterans that commit suicide in this country every day.

There are many reasons, but one of the reasons it should not be is that, A, they could not get through on a telephone call to somebody at the VA; or that they had given up hope that they were going to have their needs met after the promise that was made to them wasn't kept because they could not get what they needed for their health care and for other benefits that were promised them as being members of our military.

So my hat is off to AMVETS and many other folks, including people out there on social media, that are dedicated to doing 22 push-ups a day to get awareness up amongst their friends for the loss of approximately 22 veterans per day on suicide.

We have to get our act together here and pass legislation to make sure they

at least will get their phone calls answered, especially at a time of crisis like that, when they are contemplating perhaps a suicide.

Mr. Speaker, this needs to be done soon and with the dedication that they have given to us.

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AMERICA HAS NOT FORGOTTEN YOU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, a friend of mine works part time in a hardware store. He is retired from several other careers, but he continues to enjoy helping people in a retail-service environment.

Recently, he kindly gave me, as we were talking about gardening, some hosta plants that he had grown. As I drove through his neighborhood looking for his house, I suspected his home was the one flying the large American flag. I knew that Mike, my friend, had served in Vietnam, but, as we spent some time digging up the plants and visiting around his garden, I learned a lot more about his harrowing experience as a marine.

You see, Mr. Speaker, Mike's squad was assigned to protect an area in the northern part of south Vietnam. They were a pesky bunch, as Mike put it, and the north Vietnamese grew tired of the constant haranguing, so they launched a counterassault. Mike's squad was outnumbered 10 to 1, and they were hit pretty hard. A call went out for help, but the first helicopter to arrive was blown apart.

Mike sustained severe wounds. A bullet to the chest collapsed his lung, shrapnel tore through a foot and a leg, and another bullet grazed his head. To breathe, Mike had to keep clearing his throat with his finger to remove the gurgling blood. And at the point where he could no longer physically fight, he crawled to a slightly more secure place and propped himself up on a sack. Mike told me he remembered two things—the wind blowing through his hair and his mother. Who would tell her that he had died?

Only three Americans survived that battle. Fortunately, another helicopter quickly landed and a corpsman came to Mike's rescue, stabilized him, and helped return him to safety. A doctor performed quick and precision surgery, and the medical personnel nursed him back to health, for which Mike was always grateful.

But something always nagged him. He never got a chance to thank the corpsman who risked his own life to save him. And, finally, in 2001, he went online, did some research, and found the man 30 years later. Mike wrote to him and said: I have not forgotten you.